

## ALEXANDRIA:

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1861.

Congress - Mr. Baker, of Oregon, occupied the Senate, yesterday, in reply to Mr. Benjamin. The House of Representatives passed the Indian Appropriation Bill.

THE LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA meets next Monday, in extra session. We unite in the appeal which comes up from the conservative men of the State-true to the rights of the South and the vital interests of the Commonwealth,-and yet desirous, if possible, of restoring peace, harmony and union .- for the exercise of the highest degree of patriotism and wisdom. Bound not only by allegiance, but by love and affection to the old Commonwealth, her sons are anxious that her position should be impregnable, and her commands such as will challenge the admiration of the world. They, therefore, ask that passion should not inflame the counsels, nor reckless precipitation, hurry on the acts, of the Legislature. The course of duty, of honor, and of safety, is one which can best be followed, by the exercise of prudence, discretion, and calmness-qualities not incompatible with the loftiest courage, and the sternest virtue.

There is talk about "arming," &c., in some of the Northern State-all to "enforce the laws." Hadn't they better turn their attention first, to the "enforcement of the laws" among themselves? Their disregard of their obligations-their legislative nullifications -the treasonable proceedings of their own people in the rescue of fugitive slaves, have all helped to bring on the present crisis. If they would "enforce the laws" at home, they would not have to complain of the effects of their own evil example elsewhere. The inventors of bad precedents should be the last to complain, much less to "arm"-when their inventions come back "to plague them."

The New York Herald gives Lincoln for his Cabinet, Gov. Banks as Secretary of State-Moses Grinnell as Secretary of the Treasury-David Wilmot as Secretary of the Interior-John C. Fremont as Secretary of War-Edward Bates as Attorney General. It sends Seward as Minister to England and Wm. C. Bryant to the new Kingdom of Italy. Whether Lincoln will accept the programme of the Herald remains to be seen. As things are going now, however, a Cabinet "is a very immaterial circumstance.'

Hon. Jeremiah Morton addressed a meeting at Culpeper Court house, last week, in favor of Secession, Henry Shackelford, esq., was in the chair. Resolutions were passed in favor of a State Convention, that Virginia should secede before the 4th of March, that every slave State should secode before that day, and co-operate afterwards-and to raise one thousand dollars for arms for the county. Col. Alex. Taliaferro, and Mr. W. T. Patton who voted for Bell and Everett, coincided with Mr. Morton.

Those at the North who are belligerenthad better calm down at once. Nothing of threat, of menuce, or of show of coercion, can re call what has happened, or prevent the future determination of any State in the South. If the Union cannot be restored or the further progress of Secession be stopped, it would be better for all sides that the separation should be peaceable. In the mean time let conservative men do all they can for their

At the last dates civil war was still raging in Mexico-Miramon had made a successful sally from the Capital upon the advancing Liberal army, and taken prisoners a number of their leaders-and instead of giving up the contest he was holding out better than ever. We suppose the Mexicans will now begin to anticipate similar doings in this Republic-and are not displeased at the

It is lamentable that the ultra Secession journals at the South, and the abolition Disunion journals at the North, seem to be bent upon exasperating the public mind, in their respective sections, and urging men on to passion, excitement, and desperate proceedings. There seems to be as much Disunionism North, as their is Secessionism

Americans who are abroad receive the news of our home troubles with the greatest concern-and are deeply impressed with the lamentable condition of the country. They say even the European governments will be astonished-although monarchists will affect to say, that they knew our form of government could not last.

Many of our cotemporaries pay tributes to the memory of the late Frederick W. Coleman, of Caroline. Mr. Coleman will long be remembered as the Principal of the Concord Academy. He was distinguished as a teacher-and was a most amiable and excellent gentleman.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the addresses delivered recently at the Installation of the officers of the University of Missouri-among which, is the happy and appropriate oration of Benj. B. Minor, the omy." President of the University.

The Jewish Messenger, of December 28th. makes a strong editorial appeal to the Jews in the United States to observe the 4th inst., as a day of prayer for the preservation of the Union.

The conduct of Capt. Coste, in delivering up a United States government ressel to the authorities of South Carolina, is very severeby condemned in many quarters.

The Washington Star of yesterday evening declares that if the Senators and Representatives of the Border Slave-holding States will propose a plan of settlement, embracing the four following points, three-fourths of the Northern members wi'l vote for its

1st. The repeal of all personal liberty

2d. An amendment of the fugitive s'ave law, granting the returned slave a trial by ury where he has escaped from, or making t obligatory on the party claiming him to

3d. An amendment to the Constitution, concerning slavery in the States, except with the consent of all the States.

4th. Another amendment to the Constitution, extending the Missouri Compromise to legislatures of the Southern side territories shall neither legislate for or against slavery,

ly putting Virginia in an attitude of defence -for it does not believe in "peaceable seces sion." If separation is to be final and irrevocable, we still hope for a peaceable one .- | Senate. The Whig further argues that "while the Legislature should first address itself to the whatever appropriations may be deemed no precipitancy. It says:-"All things should be well considered, and Virginia should seek sedulously and earnestly to maintain Southern rights and redress Southern grievances in the Union, always exerting herself to the end of the Union's preservation and less than \$100,000. the preservation of the public peace: it may suit the Cotton States, but it does not sui her, nor any of the Border States, to act rashly and inconsiderately: the idea, as we have often said, that secession is the end-all and the cure-all of all our difficulties and troubles, is an idle and mischievous dream, and should be scouted as a bald absurdity by all intelligent and reflecting men."

Hon. C. M. Conrad, Secretary of Was under President Fillmore, addressed a South ern Rights meeting in New Orleans, a few evenings since. The Bulletin, in reporting his speech, says :- "He could not see how any sane man could besitate about the alternative that was left. They were called on for sympathy for the Italian, but so help me God, said the speaker, I would rather be a Spaniard or an Italian, than be an American, and live under a chief magistrate selected by the Republican party. He was for prompt and energetic action, and believed the best way to obtain co-operation was by the States acting separately." Mr. Conrad has a carious idea about "co-operation." He manifestly thinks that separate action will force others into the measure he

The great results anticipated from the use of steam in the navigation of the New York and Erie Canal have not been reached. Wo have already given some information on this subject. A "Mechanic" publishes in the Bufffalo Courier a practical review of thesubject at some length against the economy of steam on the canal, and with a knowledge of facts and figures quite telling. From all that has been published in reference to these experi ments in the papers of New York State, it seems clear that the use of steam has made no more progress there than on the the canals of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The New Orleans Picayune, in defining the difference between a Secessionist and Co-Operationist, says: -- "The fact is, immediate State Secessionists desire nothing but secession. They reject propositions of State co-operation, because, as there is hope, their fear is that our terms for a reconstruction of the government may be accepted by the North. Here is the crowning distinction between the Co-Operationist and the immediate Secessionist.'

The Frankfort Commonwealth says :-'Even in Kentucky, we have a class-composed principally of young men who take a the bottom of glass tumblers-who imagine that it is immensely Southern to be in favor

The National Intelligencer argues that if the right of Secession is admitted, under the Constitution, the General Government can never give guarantees which will command the confidence of capitalists, in our financial and monetary affairs.

A New York correspondent says: "Lola Montez, who last summer suffered very much from a paralytic stroke, caused by smoking Seventeenth street, spends her time in meditation and prayer, and goes by the name of Fanny Gibbons."

The Committee on the Indian Bond Robbery have decided not to go to New York in pursuit of the Bonds, as either no trace of them probably would be detected, or they

The Richmond Whig condemns, in em phatic language, the course which South Carolina, is pursuing. It also declares that it is the height of injustice to upbraid and censure Maj. Anderson for his recent conduct.

The Fredericksburg Herald says: -- "Newspapers and Telegraphs have ruined the country. Suppress both, and the country could be saved now." The idea, is, at least,

The Richmond Enquirer says;-"We should not be surprised if individual action did not precipitate Virginia into collision with the Federal Government." Is that necessary?

Mr. Cobb, the late Secretary of the Treasury, is bitterly attacked by some of the newspapers in Georgia. They call him "a last, in regard to slavery, has caused a great spiritual senses those inexpressible realities in the ante-room was stricken with an anpretender and charlatan in political econ-

The National Intelligencer suggests "a repeal or suspension of all United States laws with regard to South Carolina or any other seceding State."

Manufacturing business in Massachusetts is steadily declining-especially in boots and show. Let Southern manufactures as steadi-

more, to be held shortly.

NEWS OF THE DAY. To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

At Milwaukee, on Saturday night a fire the building and contents, consisting of 500 barrels of flour and 7,000 bushels of wheat, were destroyed. Loss \$35,000; insured for \$20,000. The flames communicated to the warehouses occupied by Collins & Andre, destroying the building, valued at \$15,000. On Sunday morning another fire broke out in the building occupied by the city offices. Loss on the building \$5,000; insured .produce a certified copy of a description of the person of the escaped slave, placed on establishment was also consumed. Loss \$40,establishment was also consumed. Loss \$40, record in his county clerk's office within five | 000; insured for \$30,000. All the records days' after his escape, when demanding him and valuable documents deposited in the city dren at each generation; and singularly clerk's office were destroyed. \$200,000 worth | enough, while the boys have but five fingers, of bonds and mortgages were destroyed .forbidding Congress from ever legislating Five persons are missing, and it is feared they are buried in the ruins.

At the conclusion of Mr. Benjamin's speech, when he said the South could never the Pacific, and providing that territorial be subjugated, the applause from the galleries was positively terrific, the audience arising en masse, amid mingled cries, hisses, but shall protect alike every description of | cheers, and waiving of handkerchiefs by the property which settlers may please to carry ladies. The Senate was thunderstruck .-Senators demanded order and the clearing of the galleries, followed by a motion to ad-The Richmond Whig goes for immediate- journ. The Sergeant-at-Arms immediately summoned a large police force and cleared the galleries, leaving only the ladies. The Senate immediately adjourned. The like of this scene was never before witnessed in the

A silver wedding was celebrated in Milwaukie last week. The couple Mr. and work of arming the State, making instantly Mrs. J. B. Martin-gave a party on the occasion, which was attended by over two necessary, and look the darkness of the future | hundred persons. Their mansion is one of full in the face, there should be no haste and | the most spacious and sumptuous in the West. One of the presents from Mr. M. to his happy lady is this splendid residence; another present was a fine new block of stores, in the principal street of the city. -The value of these gifts is estimated at not

> Fort Sumter is three and three-eighths miles from Charleston, one and one-eighth miles from Fort Moultrie, three-quarters of a mile to the nearest land, one and threeeighths miles to Fort Johnson, and two and five eighths miles to Castle Pinckney. The last named fort is one mile from the town, and Fort Johnson is two and a quarter miles from the town. These measurements are correct, being taken from the latest surveys made by the United States Coast Survey.

> So far as coasting vessels are concerned, the trade with Charleston may not be seriously interrupted by her present position, as they all sail under license running one year. At the expiration of that time, they will be apt to find another state of things. Every irregular clearance for a foreign port subjects the vessel bearing it to seizure and libel, for which the custom-house offices will look out, as they share in the distribution of the pro-

> The Petersburg Express says: "The regular trains to the South are daily heavily loaded with through passengers, many whom consist of Northern capitalists en route for South Carolina and other Southern States. A gentleman from the city of New York informs us that there are three thousand prominent monied men in that city who are now prepared to come to the South, having determined upon this course in the event of a dissolution of the Union."

> There is a little flutter of excitement at the New York Custom-house as to what shall be done with the Charleston steamers. Hereafter their clearances from Charleston will be made out in the name of the State of South Carolina, as a Power independent of the United States, and the custom-house authorities are bothered as to what they shall

The statement of a correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune "that several thousand bonds, bearing numbers advertised by the Interior Department, were purchased by Messrs. Riggs & Co., of Washington, in New York, for account of the President, and are, or were recently, held by him," has not one word of truth in it.

The South Congregational Church Georgetown, Mass., an abolition concern, of which the Rev. Charles Beecher (brother of H. W. B., is pastor, held a church meeting on Sunday evening last, and after much discussion, resolved not to comply with the President's request for a fast on the 4th of

At Louisburg, N. C., on the night of the view of grave political questions through 28th ult., about \$75,000 worth of property was destroyed by fire. The newspaper office of the Eagle, and the Temperance Hall were destroyed, besides fifteen or twenty

> Mobile now boasts of a well constructed street passenger railway, which was formally inaugurated and opened to public traffic on Christmas day. It extends from Royal street to Lafayette, a distance of about three

A quiet summoning of the several officers of the army and navy, now at the seat of government, to their respective departments on Tuesday evening, forebodes that someeigarettes day and night, is now living in thing more is on the tapis than the public is yet cognizant of.

One of the miserable consequences of a disruption of the Union, will be the destruction of all patent right property, as there will not be any Supreme Court of the United States to give it its usual protection.

On Monday, in the committee of thirtythree, Mr. Millson, of Virginia, introduced would be found in the hands of innocent resolutions substantially like these of Mr.

It is said that Chief Justice Taney is pre-

pared to administer the oath of office to Mr. Lincoln, the President elect, wherever he may be requested to do so. Gen. Dix writes to the Government that Major Anderson's conduct meets the entire

approval of even the most extreme secession men in New York. On Sunday night five or six inches of snow fell in Frederick, Washington and Alleghany counties, Md., and at Richmond and

Petersburg, Va. policeman in that city, named James Dalton, is believed to have fallen heir to a million pounds sterling.

SLAYERY QUESTION. - The act of the General | world may be receding from the natural vi- a similar application to the Steubenville Conference of the Methodist Episcopal sion, they are waiting in joyful expectation Lodge. He was invited to work his way Church, which assenbled at Buffalo, in May for the summons that shall open up to their into the Lodge, and while being examined diversity of opinion throughout the coun- of a higher existence promised to all who try, especially in some of the border confer- walk in the straight and narrow way. This ences. It appears now, however, that the venerable couple have outlived their counbishops of the churches, who are the sole try; they have seen its star raise and ascend expounders of all laws passed by the General Conference, have decided that the act is not binding on membership of the church, by adopting a resolution to that effect at their we fear, civil strife and bloodshed .- Newmeeting, held a few days since at Cincinnati. The resolution is as follows, and was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That in our judgment there ence of the Methodist Episcopal Church FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is said of the late visit of the American Minister to her Majesty, the Queen, at Windsor, that he was received most graciously, broke out in the Lake Michigan Mills, and and that the Queen constantly displayed in her conversation with him the highest appreciation of the manner in which the Prince of Wales had been received in the States .-She was exceedingly courteous, and devoted herself with zeal to the entertainment of her guests, walking with Mrs. Dallas in the castle grounds, and driving them about in the park. She has received great pleasure from the kindly feeling displayed towards

the Prince in America. A Belgian family from time immemorial has presented instances of six-fingered chilas most people, every girl born in the family presents that strange phenomenon of six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. In all cases the supplementary finger or toe is a twin of the little one, of a perfect shape, and acts quite independently of the others. The hands and feet are very elegantly shaped, and no one would notice at first sight that strange peculiarity.

The Constitutionnel publishes an article igned by its chief editor, M. Grandguilot, on the question of Austria and Venetia. M. Grandguillot states that solutions of that question are everywhere sought after. It is instinctively felt that a decisive crisis is approaching. All Europe seems to have apprehensions for the coming Spring. He is convinced that the wisdom of the government of the Emperor will know how to prevent a struggle without an

The Bombay Gazette gives an unfavorable account of the state of India. The European army is discontented and a part of it is mutinous. The native troops are not to be trusted, and the whole population is bitterly dissatisfied with the government that has imposed the income tax.

The Paris Moniteur says the Emperor way of reciprocity, Englishmen visiting France shall be permitted to enter and travel through the country without pass-

The London Daily News says that there to the course of affairs in America. It is feared that our market will yet be called up- course of erection to prevent the approach on to contribute largely to the reliet of the

The Liverpool Times says the Message is an evasion of all responsibility, and contrasts the President's timid policy with the bold course of Jackson. The Globe says the Message is in fact an appeal to the North to make concessions to the South.

The distress at Coventry is such that forty thousand weavers are said to be actually star-

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

In a speech at Richmond last week, Mr. ropper stated that in 1860, five thousand Tennessee read, and two thousand for all ball and Wm. II. Wilkinson. twelve millions of money came to Virginia from the South-many think more.

Mr. E. C. Burks was, on Thursday last, lected to supply the vacancy in the Legislature, from Bedford county, occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Granville L. Brown. Mr. Burks favors the speedy call of a State Convention, to determine what measures are necessary to secure the rights and safety of the people of the Commonwealth.

Just before day, on Tuesday morning last, James Watkins, who resides in Clarkesville. Va., cut his wife's throat, while laboring un der the influence of liquor. The wound is thought to be not very serious, and it is certainly thought that Mrs. W. will recover .-Mr. Watkins is well and favorably known about Clarkesville.

A postoffice is established at Point Isabel. Richmond county, and William Ingram ap pointed postmaster. On the route from Warsaw to Kilmarnock, office at Jefferson, Powhatan county. Va., is re-established, and Martin E. Davis appointed postmaster.

There seems to be no doubt that the Legislature of Virginia at the extra session, will pass a bill for a State Convention to consider the perilous times into which the country

Mr. Rowe and Mr. Barton have declined being candidates for the State Senate from the Caroline district. Dr. Quisenbury (Whig) and Mr. Gilham (Breckinridge De mocrat) are the candidates.

The Petersburg Gas Company have reduced the Price of Gas from \$4 to \$3,50 per thousand cubic feet.

## From North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 1 .- New Year's day was inaugurated here by the most unusual excitement, caused by the arrival of a spehal train from Wilmington, N. C., containng a committee, who came on a most remar kable errand. This committee consisted of the Hon, W. S. Ashe, Capt. E. D. Hall, and Messrs. Larrinet and Hedick.

The business of the Committee was to consituated on Cape Fear river, about two miles from its mouth, and near the town of Smith-

Gov. Ellis did not advise the taking possession of the fort, but the Committee returned home this evening, resolved upon taking care at his side, and plunged it into Hussey's of the entire Cape Fear section.

The Committee dined at the Kane House with Speaker Clarke, of the Senate: John Spelman, esq., editor of the State Journal; Capt. Hoke, a member of the House of Commons, from Lincoln county, and several

The course of President Buchanan is universally condemned here. North Carolina will sustain the cause of the South.—Cor. of Petersburg Exp.

OUTLIVED THE UNION .- There is an aged and much loved pair in this community who celebrated the sixty first anniversary of their wedding-day on Wednesday, the 20th of December. For sixty-one years have they walked hand in hand along the rugged pathway of life tegether, and now in health and vigor are permitted to celebrate, with children. grandchildren, and great-grandchildren around them, another anniversary of the day According to the Cincinnati Euquirer, a upon which, with young hearts full of hope and joy, they plighted their troth to each METH DIST GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE young yet; and, though the light of this ly he went to Steubenville, Ohio, and made to a height from which it illumined the world by its splendor, and now they behold it likely to go down amid darkness, gloom, and, bern  $(N/G_*)$  paper..

The Commission appointed at the last session of Congress to examine the organization. was no action of the late General Confer- Liscipline and system of instruction of the West Point Military Academy, do not pro-A Union mass meeting is called in Balti- which changed the terms of membership in pose any radical change in the organization of the Academy.

Movements in the South. The Charleston Courier of Saturday last says:-"The schooner W. A. Ellis, which lowing items of interest:- "Throughout the arrived from New York on Wednesday last, city yesterday and the day before, speculahad on board five bundred barrels cement tion was rife as to the condition of the differconsigned to Fort Moultre. We learn that ent fortifications in the harbor. Much anxieits delivery to the United States officers has ty was manifested on the part of the friends been prevented for the present, and it will of our citizens in possession of Fort Moulbe placed in store." Besides Captain Coste, of South Carolina,

who recently betrayed his trust in the harbor of Charleston, the officers of the revenue schooner were 1st Lieut. Underwood: 2d Lieut. ty of rumors affoat. Some went so far as to H. O. Porter, (a son of the late Commodore Porter;) and 3d Lieut. H. J. Gambrill, of Md. When Coste took possession of the brig in the name of South Carolina, they immediately retired to the city and notified the so, and if it be true, as reported, that Department in Washington of Coste's act; themselves awaiting further orders from the cause of the salt water that makes way in-

Governor Pickens, of South Carolina, has issued a call for volunteers under the military law lately passed by the Legislature of that State, entitled "An act to provide for the State an armed military force.

The Federation says that the majority in the Alabama convention in favor of co-operation is from 10 to 15.

It is said that the authorities of South Carolina have already had to resort, practically, to | Pleasant, as well as this city, are rendered the Mexican plan of getting their loans taken-the forced loan plan. Thus it is said that the takers of much of the \$400,000 so fouled with stagoant water that to drink it far raised, were made to take it under the would be to partake of death and disease. penalty of otherwise being regarded as disaffected to the cause.

A Tax of \$16 per head on Slaves has been laid by South Carolina, by way of raising by the small crafts and steamboats that are

One of the South Carolina banks has taken a hundred thousand of the four-hundredthousand-dollar loan. Whereupon the Secession Convention has accorded to it the privilege of issuing more notes without their preserving their relation to specie or other bona fide securities in its vaults, previously required by South Carolina law. Now, this has decided that from January next, and by is the initiation of the old Continentalmoney system of raising the wind so as to pay war expenses.

The rumors affoat in reference to the South Carolina Commissioners represent them as by no means satisfied with the s a growing feeling of distrust with respect change in the Cabinet. The tidings from Charleston, of fortifications being in the of reinforcements to Major Anderson, is an evidence of the appreciation of the Commissioners of the change which took place in the sentiment of the Cabinet when Mr. Floyd retired. They are in constant telegraphic communication with Gov. Pickens.

The following army officers have resigned: Brevet Major Wm. H. Walker and brevet Major H. C. Wayne, of Georgia; Col. A. C. Myers, Capt. John Danivant and brevet Seand Lieut. W. H. Gibbs, of South Caroli-

The following naval officers from South Carolina have resigned: Lieuts, A. F. Warey, John R. Hamilton, Robert Selden and W. G. Dozier; Assistant Surgeon Thos. J. slaves went South from Richmond, over the Chariton; Midshipmen, Francis W. Thomas, Johnson, for Jemes' Island. Petersburg road, a like number went on the R. H. Baest, John T. Walker, John Grim-

> Col. Huger, the Postmaster of Charleston, has forwarded an order to the Post Office Department for \$440 worth of postage stamps, for the use of the Charleston office. Department postpones filling the order for the present. Only twelve Postmasters have resigned in South Carolina. No contractor for carrying the mails has yet intimated a wish to throw up his contract.

The ordinance adopted by the "Sovereign State of South Carolina," makes no provision whatever for the naturalization and in ntroduction to the rights of citizenship of those born in foreign lands.

Bishop Davis, of South Carolina, has made provision for the new State of government, and the appropriate prayer for the "Governor and all in authority," was used on Sunday, 23d ult., the first Sabbath after secession-in the churches at Charleston, and in other churches of the Diocese, so far as the Episcopal order has communicated.

We mentioned vesterday the arrival of the Hussar, at New York, having on board the mutineers and murderers of the "Stag hound." The prisoners all speak in the highest praise of Capt. Howland. Some twenty vessels had refused to transport those men when Captain Howland was applied to. ile immediately gave an affirmative answer, knowing that his own crew were trustworthy, and would take no part in the liberation of the prisoners, in case of an attempt. The prisner Morris is a low, thick-set man, about 27 years of age. He is intelligent, and very communicative. He gives the following account of the unfortunate occurrence. The ship having a cargo of 400 coolies, it was necessary to keep a strict watch upon them, as they-the coolies-would, and in many cases do, raise and endeavor to take possession of the vessel, upon finding that they are deceived-which occurred upon this oc easion. The hatches being open for ventilation, the coolies took advantage and rose en masse, and endeavored to take possession of the ship. The crew, foremost among whom was Morris, made an onslaught upon them, and after killing a number of them, and salt with Gov. Ellis upon the propriety of | driving others into the sea, succeeded in getaking Fort Johnson, a revolutionary fortress | ting the remainder below. He was subsequently accused of not making proper exertions to quell the mutiny, and, according o his statement, had an encounter, with Mr. Hussey, in which, while under great excitement, he drew his sheath knife which was abdomen. He (Hussey) than ran to the cabin, but scarcely had he left when the 1st officer made an attack upon him, when he also stabbed him. The entire crew, upon learning of the occurrence, immediately refused duty, and without making any resistance, were allowed to be imprisoned. They have (24 men) been 9 months now in prison.

SUDDEN END OF AN IMPOSTER .- The Wellsourg (Va.,) Herald tells how a man claiming to be a member of Morning Star Lodge I. O. O. F., at Havre-de-Grace, Md., appeared in that town on the 22d of November, told a pitiable story of poverty and distress, that he had been robbed of his traveling pass, and that he wanted a little aid to carry him to Pittsburg on his way home. Although he could not prove his title as an Odd Fellow in good standing, yet his story so much prevailed upon the sympathy of some of the members that the requisite aid was supplied him and he was sent on his way, and a correspondence instituted with Mornother. And though they be full of years and | ing Siar Lodge, Md., which resulted in a experienced in all the stern realities of a letter from the secretary of that Lodge, four-score stewardship, their hearts are showing him to be an imposter. Subsequentoplectic fit, from which he died in a few mo-

The custom of ringing the Old Year out and the New Year in, at New York, was kept up, as it has been for so many years

TOUR PRESENTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS 1 should be selected from OGDEN'S variety of useful HOUSEKEEPING ARTICLES. See what he has. No charge for showing goods.

1500 SACKS G. A. SALT, part of eargo of ship "Scotsman," direct from Liverpool, in store and for sale by FOWLE & CO.

Affairs in Charleston.

The Courier of Monday contains the foltrie and Castle Pinckney, while no little curiosity exhibited itself to learn what was the condition of the occupants of Fort Sumter. On this latter point there were a variesay that the United States troops would be unable to hold out two weeks; that their provisions were of the most scanty character, and that water was very scarce. If this be one of the cisterns is rendered useless beto it, the soldiers cannot, by any possibility, hold out longer than ten or fourteen days. All the points from which supplies can be obtained, are rendered inaccessible.

There is a strong guard of the Charleston Riflemen stationed at the Light House on Morris' Island, even if a battery has not been erected there by this time, as was contemplated. Detachments of South Carolina troops are in possession of the post at Fort Johnson, while Sullivan's Island and Mount inaccessible to them for supplies. The remaining cisteen of the fort it is said is so be-The only remaining way for them to procure water or provisions, will be by boats or vessels, and even this mode will be cut off constantly cruising around on the watch.

From the workmen, however, who have been employed at the fort we learn that there are altogether in Fort Sumter about forty or fifty mechanics and laborers, togethwith some seventy soldiers. About twelve casemate guns are mounted, mostly looking towards Sullivan's Island, and four or five barbette guns which work on pivots. and can be worked facing in any direction. With their present force they can place several guns in position each day, and they have an abundant supply of shot and shell, and provisions and water, to last them for months. the cistern being large and amply supplied with good rain water. The guns of the lar-

gest calibre are not yet in position, and the number of cannon in the fort amounts to half its armament. Some of the employers of the young men who are now under military service, have given them notice that the salaries will not

The first flag hoisted upon the ramparts of Fort Moultrie, was the Palmetto ensign of the steamer General Clinch. Major Anderson, who deserted that fortress for a safer position, is the son-in-law of the distinguished Georgian after whom the steamer General

A detachment of the Citadel Cadets under command of Maj. Stevens left this city on Sunday for Morris' Island. The Charleston Riflemen also left the city

on Saturday last, under command of Capt. Andrew T. Harlee, lately a clerk in Washington, has arrived in Charleston, as bearer

mi-sion. Col John Cunningham having been ordered by Governor Pickens to take command of the Arsenal, completed this order yesterday, (Sunday) about half-past one o'clock. A that hour Capt Humphreys gave up the command to Col. Cunningham. The Federal Flag was lowered after a salute of 32 guns the State troops having been drawn up in order, presenting arms. The Palmetto Flag was then attached, and run up with a salute of one gun for South Carolina. The Arsenal is now in command of Col. Cunningham, of the 17th Regiment.

## MILITARY NOTICES

FAIRFAX CAVALRY COMPANY .-The following persons were appointed by the meeting at West End, Fairfax County, on Monday, the 1st of January, a committee to enroll members of the new Cavalry Company, now being formed in Fairfax County:

James M. Benton, Chairman Fred. R. Windsor, R. R. Fowle. John Terrett. Samuel Johnson. H. V. Edsall. James Coyle, S. F. Caton. Joseph Lyles, A. H. Powell, John Fairfax.

ATTENTION OLD DOMINION RIFLES. You are hereby notified to attend a meeting of the Corps, this evening, at 7 o'clock, at the Armo y. A full and punctual attendance is expected. By order of the Captain :

VIRGINIA MADE CARRIAGES! RESPECTFULLY inform the public that I have on hand an assortment of CARRIAGES of my own make, and of the very best finish and quality, which I will sell low for eash, or approved

I will execute all orders in the best manner, and it satisfactory prices. Repairing will be executed with neatness and dispatch, and warranted to please. Those in want of Vehicles of any kind, tre solicited to give me a call, as having had over wenty years practical experience in the business, am confident of my ability to give entire satisaction in the execution of orders. To my friends in Maryland and Virginia, I return my thanks for their past patronage, and hope for a coetinuation of the same

ROBERT I. EDELIN. DISSOLUTION - The partnership heretofore existing under the firm of G. K. WITMER & BROS., is this day dissolved by the withdrawal

of E. F. Witmer.
All persons indebted to the firm, are requested o make prompt settlements with E. F. Witmer who is alone authorized to use the name of the firm in the settlement of the business. G. K. WITMER & BROS.

NOTICE.—The undersigned have formed a copartnership and will continue the DRY GOODS business in all its branches, under the tyle of WITMER & CO., at the northeast corner of King and Royal streets. We solicit a continuance of the liberal patronage extended to the old firm during the past ten years

G. K. WITMER. A. H. SLAYMAKER. EDMUND PERRY, jr. A. B. SLAYMAKER.

ANTED to sell a \$12 and \$18 FAMILY SEWING MACHINE that sews fine or oarse work with one sized needle, with fine or coarse cotton, or flax thread. It is simple and orks with more ease and less noise than higher priced Machines. Delivered at any depot on the lailroads leading from Alexandria, for \$13.50 and \$20. Enclose me a 3 cent. stamp, and get

samples of sewing and further information. J. J. HITE, General Agent. White Post P. O., Clarke Co., Va., jan 1-eolu TO OUR TOWN CUSTOMERS .- Our accounts for our customers in town for the past year, 60, are all made out, and will be rendered tonorrow, at the residence or place of business of all our friends, or through the post office. These accounts are individually, small in amount, but the aggregate, if promptly paid, would aid us essentially in meeting our pending obligations Our friends will render us an especial favor by rompt payment, and will thereby greatly oblige s. R. H. MILLER, SON & CO.

N OTICE. -At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, it was

Ordered, That all free passes now in the possession of any one, will expire with the year 1860, and must be collected by the conductors, and unless written evidence of the right to pass, signed by the proper office, bearing the date of 1861, is exhibited, the conductors are required to collect H. W. VANDEGRIFT. dec 29-1w Chief Engineer and General Supt.

MEESE.-50 boxes Eastern Cutting, 50 boxes E. D. Cheese, for sale hy des 17 J. N. HARPER & CO. WANTED at the Episcopal High School, a first rate WASHER and IRONER.

dec 15-dtf

COMMUNICATIONS.

CHARACTER AND VALUE OF THE UNION .- An xtract from a Lecture on the Character and Value of the Union, delivered on Monday, December 24th, 1860, at Upperville, by A. H. Settle, of Fauquier county:-

And, in this connection, let me ask, if this Government is to be destroyed, as is now believed, who is to be responsible for the present existing National debt-the National honor? It is said, in case of a dissolution, the States ought and will assume it. Virginia has no more right to assume the payment of that debt, or a part of it, than the debt of Pennsylvania. The destruction of the Union would not give her the right, nor impose upon her the obligation. If the Gentral Government, as is commonly conceded, has no right to assume the debts of the Sta es, by what authority can the States assume the debt of the General Government, either out of the Union or in it? It is true the people, by a direct vote, might authorize the State to do so. But if they should ever be so unwise as to do that, the result will be, that they will either be ground to powder by taxation, or forced to the disgrace of absolute repudiation. Take either alternative. and I do not think a dissolution will better our condition. That the South has much to complain of. no fair mind will deny. That there is a deep

and settled hostility on the part of a portion of the Northern people to Southern institutions, cherished an a cultivated by unworthy appeals to the masses, from the stump, the press, and the pulpit, is proven as well by their effects in producin John Brown raids, as by the character of the appeals themselves. But shall we destroy the Union for this? Shall we pull down the best government the world ever saw, because some of the people who live under it may be the worst people the world ever saw? If that be sound logic, we shall have no government at all, either united or separate. For if the object in secession is to get rid of bad men, or the influence of bad men, it will utterly fail. That sort of people are numerous in our world, and I don't know that they are confined to any particular locality. doubt not, indeed, but a few such might be found even within the sublimated boundaries of South Carolina. And we may expect Beecher and Garrison and Phillips will still talk, and talk wickedly, whether we remain in the Union or go out of it. And I know of no remedy, unless it is to be found in a masterly inactivity-resting in the hope f their dying out by reason of their own inherent impurities.

That the "liberty bills" of the Free States. so much talked of, all at once, are in direct conflict with the plain privileges of the Constitution; absolutely and palpably unjust; and manifesting, altogether, a want of social comity, is undoubtedly true. The sober second thought, induced by the present critical state of affairs, may lead to their repeal. I think it will. But whether it will or not, a separation will not add to our security on that score. If you cannot counteract this evil under a common government, with ample power to do it, think you it can be done under separate governments, hostile to each other on account of the causes of separation; to be got rid of? The remedy for this interference is in the Union; and I think nowhere else. If the Free States, acting upon an assumption of right not possessed, thus attempt to overrule the authority of the Union, it is plainly the duty of the General Government to assert her supremacy and enforce obedience. If this is not done, it is not the fault of the Constitution, but the fault of those whose duty it is to administer it. Would it not be better, therefore, to demand a rigid execution of the laws, than to destroy the Government, because a set of unjust people . seek to evade or nulify them?

from the working of all human institutions, and they ttend the working of ours. The evils complained of undoubtedly exist. But you must remember they do not lie at the door of the Constitution. They have their origin in causes apart from the Union. That stands approved. Its powers are sufficient for the protection of the rights of the people under it. The laws passed under its authority, are such as the representatives of the people deemed just and proper. The evils afflicting the country, therefore, do not result from defects in the Constitution, nor even from a failure on the part of the legislative department to provide the necessary laws; but from inefficiency in administration -from a failure on the part of the public agents to execute them. If the Federal Government has no power by which to enforce obedience to the laws, then it is defective; for a law that cannot be enforced, is equivalent to no law. But this is not the case. It is enjoined as a duty on the Executive to "see that the laws are executed-nay, faithfully executed." And, even in the absence of specific legislation, pointing out the mode and means of performing this duty, it rests, under the force of the injunction, in his discretion. The non-execution of the fugitive slave law, therefore, argues no defeet in the Constitution, but inefficiency in the agency under it-and that agency, too,

Difficulties and troubles are inseparable

of our own appointment. And taking this, perhaps the worst aspect of the case, I do not see how the breaking up of the government will make it any better. The States and the sections will remain geographically just where they are, and underground railroads will be more likely to increase, both in number and length, than to diminish; and if facilities for escape are increased, the disposition to embrace them will certainly not be diminished. TO BE CONTINUED.

As a plain common sense man, I have al.

ways considered that the duties on imports were the fairst and most just mode of supporting the Government. Any other plan would not be as just. Under the present system, every man South, North, East or West, pays just according to what he uses. If he is economical, and wears home made goods, and uses maple sugar or molasses. he expense of government is no tax on him. If he is wealthy or chooses to have the luxuries or delicacies of foreign markets, then he pays the tax on what himself or family uses, but no more: and this is entirely of his own choice. The Government does not compel him to buy. I think, therefore, it is wrong to say that one section of the country pays more duties than the other. Every man pays according to what he uses. The complaint has been sometimes made that our Southern people pay duties on what their servants use or wear. Well, how is this? There are no duties on cotton goods, manufactured in the United States. I take it for granted that the preference is given for Unied States manufacture, for a good deal of it is manufactured in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Virginia. Coarse goods, for ser vants! wear, are also made South. For the pork and beef from the West, we have no duties to pay. There are no duties on corn or flour. There are no duties on hides, out of which the shoes are made. The horses and mules come from the West. The coffee, there is no dury on. It is true sugar and molasses would be lower, if it were not for the duties imposed for the benefit of our fellow citizens, the Louisiana planters. And indeed, on looking over the ground of complaint on the subject of duties, I hardly know of one article used by our slaves that pays any duties into the Pederal Treasury. Much might be said, as to what is paid for other purposes. Let

justice, therefore, on this subject, be done, "though the heavens fall." P.